

A Voice for Vocations

February 2008

Serra Club City of Orange

Region 11, District 127, Charter 643



OUR PREZ SEZ Nancy Ivary, President CALLED TO BE SAINTS

Our Mission... to foster and affirm vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life in the United States and, through this ministry, our members' common Catholic faith.

Officer Roster

2007 – 2008

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Sister Bernice Jordan

District 127 Governor

Wally Drazba

It's wonderful that our Fat Tuesday breakfast meeting this year actually falls on Mardi Gras. How blessed we are to celebrate together, with delighted anticipation, the beginning of Lent tomorrow, February 6th, Ash Wednesday. We make merry with such an enjoyable and worthy group of "saints"—or at least saints in the making.

Perhaps it would be a worthwhile resolution for some of us to make during this Lenten season to follow Sr. Bernice's habit and to keep a book of saints next to our resting places or meditation spots. Sr. Bernice's choice of books, from which she shares delightful and timely commentary, is Michael O'Neill McGrath's series of books on Patrons and Protectors. These are available at Paulist Press Book Store. I keep my copies on a table in our office. This Lent I'm adding a beautifully leather bound 1954 edition of *Lives of Saints With Excerpts From Their Writing*, which Matt and I inherited from his parents. It has reproductions of superb paintings of saints by classical artists. I hope that meditating on these exemplary souls

and striking pictures will inspire me to a more saintly frame of mind and state of spirit. One of the two aspects of the mission of Serra is to deepen our personal spirituality. Lent is the perfect time to concentrate on this part of our commitment.

The other main objective of Serra is, of course, to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We encourage and support the calling of those touched by the Lord to follow these religious lives, professions that are so essential to the life and longevity of the church. I always add to this daily prayer the vocation of deacons (perhaps someday to include women, if the Lord wills) and to the lay ministries. Each of us has at least one ministry through which we serve this church that we love and support. Awareness of our own personal calls to ministry is an important outcome of our prayer. We constantly ask for inspiration regarding what form of service is appropriate to our present and ever-changing positions in life. Meditation on the lives of the saints—

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Upcoming Events

FEB 19 – Meeting

MAR 4 – Meeting, Fr. John Neneman

MAR 9 – Bus Trip
St. John Seminary

MAR 15 – Lenten Day of
Recollection

AUG 14-17 – Serra International
Convention, Sao Paulo, Brazil

OCT 17-19 – Western Regional
Conference, Reno, Nevada

“Serra District 127 Doings” Wally Drazba, Governor

Greetings in the New Year. All four clubs had Christmas celebrations, and this is as it should be. Christmas is the Holy Day for which most of us have the fondest memories. Easter is certainly the most profound Holy Day, but I think most of us think back to friends and family memories more at Christmas than at any other time of the year.

The new year began quickly, with the Altar Servers Recognition Mass followed immediately by Vocation Awareness Week. Again we were privileged to host the reception after the Altar Servers

Mass. The Vocation office as usual, headed by Fr. John Neneman, did a great job providing the certificates and orchestrating the beautiful Mass. St. Columban's Church was filled to capacity. The West Club had Joe Sullivan chairing the event and with the help of Jean and Ernie Ramirez, did an outstanding job. Thanks also to the 30+ people that helped that day.

A few parishes had special prayers for their priests during Vocation Awareness Week. We just need to

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Vocations Newsletter

Father John Neneman, Vocations Director

Father John is traveling this month and will not have an article.

MORE CLUB NEWZ

Altar Servers Mass

On January 12th the Altar Servers Reception for the girls and boys of Orange County was held at St. Columban's church in Garden Grove. This is an event that takes place each year to say "thank you" for their services rendered throughout the year. This event is sponsored by the Diocese of Orange and presented by the four Serra Clubs of Orange County. At this event each altar server is given a certificate of appreciation for his or her continued support in the ministry. The church was filled to capacity with parents and recipients. After the Mass the altar servers and parents were invited to attend a reception of cookies, punch and coffee. There were opportunities to have their picture taken with the bishop and to receive a blessing. The West County Serra Club, under the direction of Ernie and Jeanne Ramirez along with members of the West County Serra Club worked hand in hand with fellow members of Serra. I sincerely say thank you for the City of Orange Club for saying yes to the call of service, without your support my job would be far too difficult. Rosalie

SAYING GOOD-BYE

The dawning of the New Year, brought the passing of two dear Serra members, **Josephine Ball** and **Irene Weling**. Reflecting on their lives reveals a common thread that unites Jo and Irene's lives: they always said "yes" to God and they portrayed the face of Jesus to all they encountered.

Josephine passed away on January 20th from Alzheimer's. Jo and John were married for 59 years and had 13 children. Jo loved music and dancing. She was in the Palm Springs Revue every year until her health began to fail. There wasn't a ministry that Jo didn't help out in, Eucharistic Ministry, Marriage Encounter, original participant in feeding the homeless at Hart Park. She loved to take the kids (13) camping, taught Weight Watchers and was always sewing or fixing something for the kids.

Irene passed away on January 23rd of an aneurysm and complications after surgery. Irene had 5 children with husband "Happy" Jack. As her family grew, she became aligned with Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and was the Sacristan. Irene was very involved in her children's lives and became equally involved with Mater Dei High School. She was also the Sacristan for the chapel at Mater Dei and ran it with perfection. She maintained the linens, mended the priest's linens and eventually managed to get the priest to change to white wine...easier to clean the purificators. For many years she has cleaned the Holy Family sacristy and mended albs. One thing most of us did not know about Irene was that this quiet, perfectly attired, lady, with perfectly coiffed hair was an avid Mater Dei girls and boys basketball and football team FAN. She knew her game, players, and never missed a game. To show their Love for her, the teams were there to say good-bye. Irene was a beautiful, caring, unassuming lady that always said "yes" when Serra needed her. Our last conversation was at the meeting January 17th when she shared with me that she went to her first Rose Bowl came with her son, Fr. John Weling. She voiced that it wasn't much of a game, but she loved the moment.

May we always keep these two ladies in our prayers during the Litany for the dead. Peace be with them.

Let us also pray for Peggy and John Perample and their son, Dan, who died suddenly Saturday evening.

Uncle Amos' Amblings

Running the Race

I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:4

Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent is with us very early this year! As always, this is a wonderful time to remember and meditate on God's purpose in sending His Son to save us, and further, His purpose in placing us right where we are in the life we currently enjoy.

In Paul's soliloquy, he is proud of the race he has run...so far. He has "competed well," he has "kept the faith!" Every Serra meeting, Sr. Bernice gifts us with the "*Saint of the Day*." These stories are not only interesting, but also amusing and challenging to our faith. In this last month, we have said good-bye to several of the "*Saints of our Days*", Carl Karcher, Jeanette Wilson, Jo Ball and Irene Weling.

Each of these special people, very humble and spiritual and giving, were and are an inspiration to me, and everyone who knew them. Among them, they had forty children. Three of the four parented a priest, and Jo Ball has eleven girls and two boys to carry on her charity. They accepted life and made it better for those around them. Knowing them and hearing the stories of their quiet, behind the scenes sharing of themselves, demands of me that I look where I am in the running of my own race.

Of course, neither I, nor any of us know the distance to the finish line. We have no idea how much "running time" we have left. I do know that the only competitor I have left is myself! How hard have I been running and how much stamina do I have left? This Lent, I will carry on to the best of my ability, inspired by the courageous stories of these beloved Saints of Our Days! It is important to me that God appreciate my attempts to fulfill His purpose for creating me. I do know that I cannot go on by myself but also need the inspiration of all of you who remain in my life, as well as the powerful prayers of those who have gone on before us and have actually "finished the race."

I promise to be available to 'keep the faith' with all of you as long as I am still *in the running!*

Called to Be Saints, Cont'd from p. 1

both the great and the humble ones—will surely help us in this spiritual self-examination. This and other Lenten spiritual commitments will bring us to a position in which we can celebrate Holy Week and the Easter season with great joy. We might keep in mind that the World Day of Prayer for Vocations falls on the 4th Sunday of Easter, April 13th. During Lent, we Serrans will be building up our own enthusiasm and thinking of ways we can encourage our parishes to plan special appropriate messages, activities and prayers for this day, which is so important in support of vocations. The time to begin preparations for this particular day is now.

In addition to focusing on our prayer lives during Lent, we Serrans have activities planned to nurture us in both parts of our mission. In our support of vocations, on Sunday, March 9th we'll enjoy a bus trip to St. John's Seminary as guests of our seminarians. This is our chance to become acquainted with some of them and to show that we love and support them. The other part of our mission, personal spiritual growth, will be fed at our Day of Recollection half-day retreat on the following Saturday, March 15th. Please do include both of these events in your plans for Lent.

May our Lenten prayers, studies and activities bring us all closer to the saintliness to which the Holy Spirit wants to lead us. God bless us in our efforts.

District Doings from p. 1

do a better job of spreading the word, so that we are all praying together for, and acknowledging the need for Vocations to the Priesthood, Religious life, the Diaconate, and for good married and single people dedicated to serving the Church.

The Monsignor John F Sammon Fund continues to grow, and the Committee, comprised of members of the clubs will be meeting to map out plans for further promoting the FUND. We want it promoted not only in the Serra Community, but also to the wider community touched by Msgr. Sammon. There aren't many priests who have touched as many lives as did Monsignor.

Newz - JANUARY 21, 2008 - Our Mass celebrant was Father Steve Doktorczyk, and our speaker was Sister Phyllis Tolarico, CSJ, an administrator for Regina Residence at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. Sister spoke on a topic that is obviously dear to her heart - the miracles at Medjugorje. When Sister traveled there last year she experienced a spiritual conversion. After 54 years in the convent she now seeks out confession every month instead of her former practice of two or three times a year. She fasts twice a week and prays the complete four-mystery rosaries each day, in addition to reading the bible. Sister's message today was to encourage all to take part in one of the pilgrimages scheduled in May and June of this year. She brought flyers, books and a video for interested members who might wish to make this journey. Pilgrims stay in the homes of the visionaries, and receive two meals a day. Mass, rosary and confessions are offered each day, as well as time for visiting with the visionaries and Father Jozo in the scenic Adriatic countryside. This is not a tour in the usual sense of travel and visiting historic sights, but a spiritual pilgrimage. Sister is opening up this opportunity, and she says....Mary is inviting you!

SAINT OF THE DAY - Sister Bernice Jordan's saint for the day was Saint Timothy, patron of stomach ailments. He was a student of St. Paul, and very likely suffered from ulcers during the times of persecution. His advice to clergymen and to all of us is to resolve to live a life of love, patience, penance and endurance.

IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPHINE BALL – Fr. Don Romito celebrated the Mass of Interment for Jo Ball, who had suffered for the last few years with Alzheimer's disease. Jo and her husband John are the parents of thirteen children, eleven girls and two boys. All were present as Jo was remembered for her years of service in a myriad of ministries, while making her home open to all. She and John served weekend meals to the homeless at Hart Park when Mary McAnena served during the week. Her daughter Maggie read a litany of services she has engaged in all her life. We are proud to call her a former member of Serra and look to her for her prayers for each one of us!

IRENE WELING - On Monday, January 28, 2008 City of Orange Serra member Irene Weling was laid to rest. She was remembered at a Mass offered by her son, Father John Weling, SJ, former president of Mater Dei High School and currently president of Verbum Dei High School in Los Angeles. Hundreds of mourners, including students from both schools, gathered to pay tribute to this beautiful lady who spent her life in service to others. After a brief illness, Irene passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital on January 22. Family and friends, and all of those who benefited from her love and generous spirit will miss her immensely.

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ITALIAN PASTA DIET -- IT REALLY WORKS!!

- 1. You walka pasta da bakery.
 - 2. You walka pasta da candy store.
 - 3. You walka pasta da Ice Cream shop.
 - 4. You walka pasta da table and fridge.
- You losa da weight!

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. You'll find relief in knowing the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies!

- 1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 5. The Germans drink a lot of beers and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION

Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

Ministers for Serra Masses

FEB 19-- LECTORS

- Terry Toner
- Sandy Toner
- Stan Espenship

MAR 4—EMs

- Polly Haines Host
- Carol Cagle Cup
- Barbara Caraccio Cup
- Al Erhard Cup

**"Always forward,
never back!"**
Junipero Serra



Carol Cagle
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